

My Linnels  
2/21/39

## 22,000 NAZIS HOLD RALLY IN GARDEN; POLICE CHECK FOES

Record Detail of 1,700 Cuts  
Off the Area to Protesters—  
Thousands in Vicinity

SCUFFLES OCCUR OUTSIDE

Pickets Battle in Vain to Pass  
the Lines—Speakers Hail  
Washington and Coughlin

Protected by more than 1,700 policemen, who made of Madison Square Garden a fortress almost impregnable to anti-Nazis, the German-American Bund last night staged its much-advertised "Americanism" rally and celebration of George Washington's Birthday.

The meeting itself was orderly enough, the only out-of-the-way incident inside the Garden occurring near the end when a young Jewish listener mounted the platform, only to be tackled by several uniformed Bund members and then carried off by a half-dozen husky policemen. Mention of President Roosevelt and other critics of Nazi Germany drew resounding boos.

Outside, in the several blocks immediately adjacent to the big sports arena, there was scattered fighting and disorder before, during and after the meeting, but no serious trouble.

### 18 Held on Minor Charges

Only thirteen arrests were made, all on minor charges. Eight persons received medical aid because of minor injuries, four of them policemen. Another policeman was knocked down by a police horse, but declined aid. A Bund member inside the Garden was treated at Polyclinic Hospital for scratches on his forehead.

Potentially, the most serious situation arose when the Bund followers began to stream out the doors when the meeting closed at 11:15. As they passed through the police lines at Fifty-second Street some of the more violent anti-Nazis in the crowd began assaults on individuals. Policemen quickly broke up those fights and by 12 o'clock Eighth Avenue was as quiet as it usually is at that hour on a mid-week midnight.

There was considerable delay in vehicular traffic along the avenue from 6 P. M. to 12, traffic being diverted entirely for a few minutes at 11:15, and the whole area for two blocks north, south and east of the Garden was closed off for the same period to foot pedestrians not bound for the rally.

### Record Detail of Police

It was such an outpouring of policemen as the city never had witnessed before for a similar event, with Acting Mayor Newbold Morris and Police Commissioner Valentine on hand to see that there was as little trouble as possible.

"We have enough police here to stop a revolution," the Commissioner said jocularly as he viewed his deployed blue legions from the Eighth Avenue entrance to the Garden just before the meeting began at 8 o'clock.

While Chief Inspector Louis F. Costuma estimated the crowd at 100,000 in the vicinity of the Garden, Commissioner Valentine laughed at that figure, saying, "Well, he's including the people that are going to the shows. They didn't come here to see this thing." Mr. Valentine added that he suspected there had been about 10,000 persons on hand to watch or participate in the demonstrations outside.

The main demonstration took place at Fifty-first Street and Eighth Avenue, where followers of the Socialist Workers party, an organization pledged to the principles of Leon Trotsky, staged their principal demonstration. The party, the only organization calling for a public demonstration at the meeting, had asked for 50,000 demonstrators. Police placed the number of active participants at only a few hundred.

Although small in numbers they were extremely vocal and at various times during the evening set up such a shouting that it appeared

many more were participating as the curious rushed from many vantage points to the scene of the disturbance.

### Demonstrators Dispersed

There also were several minor brushes at the southern side of the police blockade, at Forty-eighth and Forty-seventh Streets. The largest of these occurred in Forty-eighth Street just before the meeting adjourned, when several hundred anti-Bund demonstrators sifted through police lines and formed ranks between Eighth and Ninth Avenues. It was in breaking up this parade that most of the arrests were made.

The police vigilance on the lines

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